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Mexico

Poultry and Products

Update on Status of Avian Influenza

Mexico Lifts Restrictions on Nine U.S. States

2005

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Report Highlights:

On October 4, 2005, the Secretariat of Agriculture in Mexico lifted the Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) restrictions on the following U.S. states: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, and Pennsylvania. Imports of raw poultry meat for direct consumption, for thermal processing as well as table, hatching, and specific pathogen-free (SPF) eggs are now eligible from all U.S. states, except from 11 counties in Texas where restrictions remain in place in response to a 2004 High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) detection.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

MEXICO LIFTS RESTRICTIONS ON POULTRY IMPORTS ON NINE U.S. STATES

In accordance with the agreement reached by USDA and the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) in early August 2005, Mexico lifted its LPAI restrictions on nine U.S. states on October 4, 2005. The nine are California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, and Pennsylvania. However, HPAI restrictions continue on the following Texas counties: Gonzales, Guadalupe, Galdwell, Bastrop, Fayette, La Vaca, De Witt, Karnes, Wilson, Comal and Hays

Imports of raw poultry meat for direct consumption, for thermal processing as well as table, hatching, and specific pathogen-free (SPF) eggs are now eligible from all U.S. states, except the 11 counties from Texas mentioned above.

As in the past, SAGARPA continues to require that imports of raw poultry meat for retail sale and eggs be subject to the AGID test. However, Mexico has also now given the option of using the ELISA tests for AI, according to the standards established by the International Animal Health Organization (OIE).

The following table summarizes the regulations that are currently being implemented by the Mexican government for U.S. live poultry and poultry meat exports.

REGULATIONS FOR POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS EXPORTS

ITEM	RAW POULTRY DIRECT CONSUMPTION 1/	RAW POULTRY FURTHER PROCESSING 5/	FULLY COOKED PRODUCTS	TABLE AND HATCHING EGGS	LIVE BIRDS
Export Status All U.S. States	YES 2/	YES 2/	YES	YES 2/	YES 2/
Required Language On Cleaning And Disinfection Of Trucks	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Required Sealing Of Trucks At Point Of Origin	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Agar Gel or ELISA Test Required	YES	NO 6/	NO	YES 3/	YES 3/
Certification Requirements On END 4/	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1/ SAGARPA still does not allow imports of bone-in chicken leg quarters for further processing to the interior of Mexico because of concerns about products being diverted to the retail market.

2/ Imports are prohibited from the following Texas counties: Gonzales, Guadalupe, Galdwell, Bastrop, Fayette, La Vaca, De Witt, Karnes, Wilson, Comal and Hays, due to HPAI. Restrictions for LPAI were lifted for Connecticut, California, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Texas.

3/ Agar Gel or ELISA Tests should begin 21 days before laying and should continue on a quarterly basis.

4/ END statement for meat, meat products and by products. - "That the product comes from flocks that have a monitoring program of 70 birds that began after 12 days of age, using viral isolation tests and identification of velogenic strains through a test that indicates intracerebral pathogenicity in chicks of one day of age and that is carried out for each lot that is delivered for slaughter, obtaining negative results for Velogenic Newcastle disease, or that comes from a country free of Velogenic Newcastle Disease. "

5/ Imports destined for further processing are only approved to proceed to Federal Inspected Plants (TIF) and non-TIF meat processing facilities authorized by SAGARPA.

6/ The Agar Gel test or the ELISA test will be required for imports for further processing destined for animal consumption.

*For additional information regarding poultry meat and egg products exports to Mexico see the web page USDA/FSIS/Export Library at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov> (Export Requirements for meat and poultry products)